Outstanding Care,
Compassionate People,
Healthier Communities

NHS
Sherwood Forest Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

King's Mill Hospital
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NG17 4JL

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13th November 2026

[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Home birthing units FOI

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. How many home birthing units do you have in the Trust?	The Trust does not have home birth Units as a home birth is carried out at the home address. We do provide a home birth service.			
2. Have any of these home birthing units had to close between December 2025 and October 2026?	The homebirth service has not been fully suspended / closed during this timeframe.			
3. Have any of these home birthing units had suspensions between December 2025 and October 2026?	The home birth service has been suspended overnight during this timeframe on 19 occasions.			
4. What were the reasons for the closures or suspensions?	The reasons for the suspensions on these occasions were for a mixture of Staff sickness and first-trimester pregnancies within workforce.			
5. Have you had any cases of women giving birth at home without the help of a midwife?	During this timeframe there were no identified freebirths, however there were two occasions where a patients booked for a home birth delivered before the midwife arrived due to precipitate labour. Additionally there were also three births at home due to precipitate labour for patients who were booked to deliver at hospital.			

Patient Experience Team
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Trust Chair Rukshana Kapasi OBE
Chief Executive Jon Melbourne

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the Open Government Licence (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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